

MIKE COFFMAN  
6TH DISTRICT, COLORADO

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE  
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

BALANCED BUDGET  
AMENDMENT CAUCUS  
CHAIRMAN

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0606**

January 19, 2012

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President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

We urge you to reconsider your decision regarding the TransCanada Keystone XL pipeline.

The Keystone XL pipeline would benefit the United States, Colorado, and our most valuable trading partner, Canada. The United States imports more oil from Canada than any other single country in the world, and crude petroleum is Colorado's top import from Canada. In return, Colorado exports more to Canada than to any other country, and over 143,000 jobs in Colorado depend on our trade relationship with Canada. Degrading this trade relationship, as the rejection of the Keystone XL Pipeline does, will only negatively affect job growth and the economy.

The rejection of this proposal also means the rejection of other significant benefits that the Keystone XL Pipeline would provide. The project would protect and enhance our energy security, perhaps more than any other action, and increase national security by reducing dependence on unstable and unfriendly oil-producing nations and along unreliable transport routes such as the Strait of Hormuz. It would reduce the hundreds of billions of dollars of trade imbalance the U.S. spends annually on overseas oil, and thereby ease our debt and deficit crisis. Finally, if the pipeline is not approved it is likely that Canada will look to transport the oil to the Asian markets, which would have negative commercial, environmental and national security consequences.

We must support projects that can directly and indirectly add jobs and economic benefit to Colorado companies. Canada and its Prime Minister have formally requested support from the United States for the Keystone XL pipeline, and it is advantageous for the United States to maintain and improve its personal, political, and commercial relations with Canada. Approval of their reasonable request benefits the economy and national security of both nations and preserves relationships for future trade and commerce with Colorado and the U.S.

The \$7 billion Keystone XL pipeline project is projected to create 20,000 direct jobs beginning immediately upon approval. This is as "shovel ready" as they come. Colorado is home to several nationally and internationally respected world class universities, as well as engineering, environmental, water resource, project management, service, and construction companies who would have the opportunity to bid on various parts of the multi-disciplined project. Colorado


and the United States could further benefit by positioning to provide consultation on environmental mitigation of either the producing source of the oil or along the 1,700 mile route.


TransCanada has re-routed the proposed pipeline around the Nebraska Sandhills, thereby addressing the primary focus of publicly stated environmental opposition. Furthermore, all states through which the pipeline passes have now approved the route.


Reversing your rejection of the Keystone XL pipeline and instead moving towards its timely approval is entirely consistent and aligned with our nation's goals of energy security, greater energy independence, job and economic growth, and reducing the trade imbalance, national debt and deficit. We should not miss such a unique opportunity for the overall long-term security and well-being of our nation. For this reason, we urge you to reconsider your decision.

Sincerely,

  
Mike Coffman  
Member Congress

  
Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress

  
Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress

  
Cory Gardner  
Member of Congress